

Applicants : Wai-Kuen LUI and William Wai-Shing LUI  
Atty. Dkt. No. : 865-B-PCT-US  
USSN : 10/593,701 Art Unit : 3732  
Filed : 9-19-2006 Date of office action : 3-4-2008  
Examiner : Hao D. Mai Date of response : 5-14-2008  
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Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A dental hygiene apparatus, comprising:  
(a) a teeth-cleaning means;  
(b) an elongated handling means; and  
(c) a flexible means between the teeth-cleaning means and the handling means, wherein the flexible means is integral with the teeth-cleaning means and the handling means, and the flexible means is pliable so that it can be bent about 90 degrees to the right or to the left.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the teeth-cleaning means comprises arms securing one or more lengths of interdental material.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said interdental material is dental floss.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the elongated handling means comprises a tapered portion at one end.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the tapered portion is chisel-shaped or pointed.

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27. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the teeth-cleaning means is capable of adhering to a new position after flex adjustment at the flexible means.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprises a guarding means for preventing a user from using the teeth-cleaning means.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the guarding means comprises a locking device that fits into one or more mating recesses on the teeth-cleaning means.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the guarding means comprises a thin material that securely covers parts of the teeth-cleaning means and cannot be removed without destruction of said material.

31. (New) An dental hygiene apparatus, comprising:  
(a) an elongated handle;  
(b) a cleaning head comprising two arms capable of securing one or more lengths of interdental material;  
and  
(c) a flexible elbow between the cleaning head and the elongated handle, wherein the flexible elbow is integral with the cleaning head and the elongated handle, and the flexible elbow is pliable so that it can be bent about 90 degrees to the right or to the left.

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32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said interdental material is dental floss.
33. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the elongated handle comprises a tapered end which is integral with the elongated handle.
34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the tapered end is chisel-shaped or pointed.
35. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the tapered end is pliable so that it can be bent about 90 degrees to the right or to the left.
36. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the elongated handle comprises ridges, grooves, or a combination thereof.
37. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the apparatus, in whole or in part, is constructed of a thermoplastic resin.
38. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cleaning head is capable of adhering to a new position after flex adjustment at the flexible elbow.
39. (New) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprises a guarding means for preventing a user from using the cleaning head.

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40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the guarding means comprises a locking device that fits into one or more mating recesses on the cleaning head.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the guarding means comprises a thin material that securely covers parts of the cleaning head and cannot be removed without destruction of said material.